

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

1. Cancelled

2. Cancelled

3. (Currently Amended) The cylindrical separator as claimed in claim ~~[[2]]~~ 17, wherein said sheets comprise at least one layer of a semi-permeable membrane and cellophane in addition to said non-woven sheet material.

4. Cancelled

5. (Previously Presented) The cylindrical separator as claimed in claim **17**, comprising a thermoplastic sealant arranged at the central zone on the outer surface of said bottom part.

6. Cancelled

7. Cancelled

8. Cancelled

9. Cancelled

10. Cancelled

11. Cancelled

12. Cancelled

13. Cancelled

14. Cancelled

15. Cancelled

16. Cancelled

17. (Currently Amended) A cylindrical separator for cylindrical cells, comprising a cylindrical body constituted by a layered structure of a plurality of turns of at least a non-woven sheet material, and having a bottom part closing a first end of said cylindrical body, wherein said bottom part is an integral extension of said cylindrical body, and with the wound layers of said bottom part having a uniform and even bend along an entire circumferential section of the cylindrical body and fused by heat, and wherein said cylindrical body is made from a plurality of sheets placed onto one another and wound together without any binder, and said bottom part has a curved continuous inner and outer surfaces and a substantially uniform thickness.

18. (Previously Amended) The cylindrical separator as claimed in claim 17, wherein the bottom part has an outwardly curved shape.

19. Cancelled